

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/508,879

Examiner

Zeev Kitov

Applicant(s)

KRASIN, ALEXANDER

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/17/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>08/17/06</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner acknowledges a submission of the amendment and arguments filed on August 21, 2006. Claims 1 - 4 and 6 are amended. Amendment and arguments have overcome objections and rejections under 112, 2nd paragraph and 103(a).

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

An amended independent Claim 1 discloses an ESD protection circuit, which inter alia, includes a first and an NMOSFET and PMOSFET capacitors, wherein the PMOSFET capacitor is having a gate connected to the input node of the inverter, a drain and a source of the PMOSFET capacitor being connected to the ground rail, and a bulk of the PMOSFET capacitor being connected to the power rail.

The closest reference for the claim is Kerr et al., which discloses the PMOSFET capacitor (48 in Fig. 12) having a gate connected to the input node of the inverter (28 and 30 in Fig. 12) and a bulk of the PMOSFET capacitor being connected to the power rail. However, it does not disclose the PMOSFET capacitor having its drain and source simultaneously connected to the ground rail; the drain and source of the PMOSFET capacitor in the reference are left floating.

Another close reference is Stata et al. (US 5,825,601), which discloses the PMOSFET capacitor (MP2 in Fig. 3) having a gate connected to the input node of the inverter (MP3, MP1, MN1 in Fig. 3), while its source and drain are connected to the power rail (12 in Fig. 3). However, the connection of the PMOSFET bulk is not disclosed

and therefore it is assumed as being connected as usually to the source of the transistor.


In contrast, the PMOSFET capacitor of the invention is being connected between the inverter input and the ground and is being controlled by the voltage between the power rail and the ground.

Allowability resides, at least in part, in the above-described limitations, which has not been disclosed in the Prior Art in a search.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zeev Kitov whose telephone number is (571) 272-2052. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 – 4:30. If attempts to reach examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272 – 2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceedings is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for all communications.

Z.K.
9/10/2006



BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800